Chairman Michael Powell Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to ask that the FCC not impose new hidden charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Minorities, lower-income families, senior citizens, immigrants, college students and military families rely upon calling card services for a variety of needs. Many of these consumers do not have the credit, bank accounts, or surplus cash to pay a large deposit for local telephone service. For these consumers, a prepaid card may be the only option they have to stay connected - to make phone calls to look for a job, for affordable housing, make a doctor's appointment, or stay in touch with family and friends. These cards offer convenience and predictable costs.

In economically disadvantaged areas, consumers literally risk being disconnected if the prices of these cards increase. Prepaid calling cards are indispensable for these and other consumer groups because they are an affordable alternative to regular and wireless telephone services.

But such price hikes are precisely what the FCC will do if it inflicts new "in-state" access charges and other fees on pre-paid cards. The fees would funnel directly to large local telephone companies while the burden would fall squarely upon those consumers that can least afford to bear it. Adding access charges and fees will substantially increase the cost of providing pre-paid cards at affordable prices, jeopardizing the savings provided by these cards.

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Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy

Commissioner Kevin Martin

Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

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Prices are already rising for gas, milk and other products. Consumers don't need higher prices for phone calls too, especially when these higher rates represent a blatant giveaway to four large corporations.

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Phila Branch Member

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7405 Hard 10:CF Place
4002 17404

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PH. 2346 NAACP

Sincerely,

ccs:

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Commissioner Michael J. Copps

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin

Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

Senator Senator

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Chairman Michael K. Powell Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

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